

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A color image processing apparatus for detecting and correcting fault pixels in a color image pickup device having a plurality of pixels each with a correspondingly disposed filter device of color filter having a plurality of filter devices respectively of predetermined colors, said color image processing apparatus comprising:

means for detecting fault pixels by establishing a correlation among pixel signals along an arrangement of consecutive ones of identical color; and

means for correcting pixel signals corresponding to the fault pixels detected at the fault pixel detecting means.

2. The color image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fault pixel detecting means detects fault pixels by correlating pixel signals along an arrangement of spatially consecutive filter devices of identical color.

3. The color image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fault pixel detecting means operates pixel signals of a plurality of pixels corresponding to a plurality of adjoining filter devices of colors which are

not identical to produce operation-generated color over a plurality of pixels and establishes a correlation among pixel signals along an arrangement of spatially consecutive ones of identical operation-generated color to detect fault pixels.

4. The color image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fault pixel detecting means detects first fault pixels by correlating pixel signals along an arrangement of spatially consecutive filter devices of identical color and in addition then operates pixel signals of a plurality of pixels corresponding to a plurality of adjoining filter devices of colors which are not identical to produce operation-generated color so as to detect second fault pixels by correlating pixel signals along an arrangement of spatially consecutive ones of identical operation-generated color.

5. The color image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said fault pixel detecting means excludes the first fault pixels from information to be subjected to detection at the time of detecting the second fault pixels.

6. The color image processing apparatus according to claims 1, further comprising a color generation processing

circuit having a line memory for obtaining predetermined color image signals based on image signals from said color image pickup device, and said fault pixel detecting means using said line memory for the color generation processing circuit also as the line memory for fault pixel detecting circuit.

7. A color image processing apparatus for detecting and correcting fault pixels in a color image pickup device having a plurality of pixels each with a correspondingly disposed filter device of color filter having a plurality of filter devices respectively of predetermined colors, said color image processing apparatus comprising:

means for, among an observed pixel and a plurality of pixels adjoining to the observed pixel and having correspondingly disposed filter devices of colors not identical thereto, forming a plurality of pixel group patterns having different arrangement of plurality of pixels including the observed pixel;

means for operating to obtain identical color for the pixel group patterns based on signals obtained from the respective pixels of each pixel group pattern formed at the pixel group pattern forming means; and

fault pixel detecting means for detecting pixel group pattern including fault pixel by establishing among

the pixel group patterns a correlation of the signals of each pixel group pattern obtained by the means for operating to obtain identical color.

8. The color image processing apparatus according to claims 7, further comprising a color generation processing circuit having a line memory for obtaining predetermined color image signals based on image signals from said color image pickup device, and said fault pixel detecting means using said line memory for the color generation processing circuit also as the line memory for fault pixel detecting circuit.